

Turkey Brood Survey 2007

On the reverse side is a map (Fig. 1) showing survey region boundaries and average brood production by region, with the production index (Fig. 2). In the table below, 2007 results are compared to the average value from the previous year and the 10-year average.

Table 1. 2007 Turkey Brood Survey Results (% change from previous year in *italic*, and % change from a 10-year average in **bold**, 1998-07).

REGION	REPORTS	TURKEYS PER FLOCK	POULTS PER HEN	% HENS WITH BROOD
Northeast	687	10.2 (+9,-3)	5.1 (+6,+6)	53 (+11, -3)
Southern	1492	8.2 (-7,-15)	4.5 (-4,-10)	37 (-8, -22)
Central	301	9.7 (+21,+7)	4.6 (+7,0)	55 (+13,+10)
Western	675	9.3 (-18,-21)	4.1 (-9,-14)	38 (-11,-22)
East Central	909	9.7 (+9,-7)	5.0 (-15,0)	54 (+26,+14)
Northwest	157	10.0 (+2,-18)	5.5 (+17,+6)	56 (+18,-15)
North Central	538	10.2 (+10,+9)	4.7 (0,+5)	55 (-2,+3)
STATEWIDE	4833	9.5 (+1,-7)	4.8 (0,-3)	46 (+9,-7)

Iowa's 2007 summer wild turkey brood survey showed a slight increase in reproduction of turkeys throughout the state compared to last year, but lower than the 10-year average. Statewide, more hens (+9%) were observed with broods than the previous year, but the number of young observed per hen remained the same as last year. The production index (Fig. 2, calculated from % hens with broods and number of poults per hen) indicated an average to below average reproduction index statewide. Turkey flock size observed across the state slightly increased (+1%) from last year, but was still below the 10-year average (-7%). Regionally, northeast, northwest, and central Iowa experienced increases in reproduction from the previous year. North central Iowa experienced nearly identical reproduction from last year, which was slightly above the 10-year average. East-central Iowa experienced the largest increase (+26%) of hens with broods from the previous year, but the number of poults observed with hens was lower (-15%) than last year. Southern and Western Iowa experienced the most declines in reproduction, a similar trend last year in these regions.

The reproduction rates were likely related to the amount of rainfall during the nesting season (April-May). Southern and western Iowa experienced the most rainfall during the nesting season (4-6 inches above normal), while the other regions experienced near normal to one inch above normal amounts of rainfall in 2007. An early warm-up in March/April followed by below freezing temperatures may have initiated some hens to nest, with the eggs freezing prior to incubation.

This year's brood survey indicated average to above average in the northern half of the state, but below average for the southern parts of the state. Southern Iowa has experienced average to below average reproduction over the past several years, with the lowest flock size also reported this year and the past few years. Even though turkey reproduction and numbers are down in southern Iowa, the population is still in good condition, and at higher levels than many regions of the eastern U.S., with hunter harvest success rates remaining similar.

The information received from the turkey brood survey is an essential in order to monitor turkey reproduction in Iowa. We welcome anyone interested in future help with the survey, and thank all those who have helped in the past. We hope you will all continue to help monitor turkeys throughout Iowa. This information is crucial to successful turkey management in Iowa, and could not be accomplished without all of your help. We very much appreciate your continued cooperation and support.

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Figure 1. Average number of poult per successful hen observed in Iowa during 2007 for 7 survey regions.

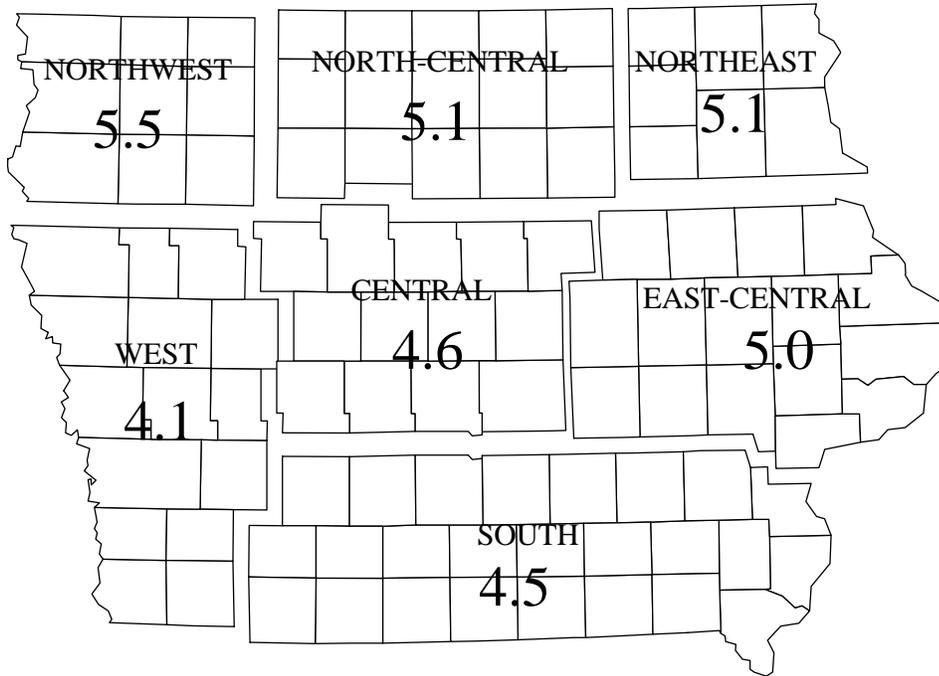


Figure 2. Iowa's wild turkey production index, 1976-2007.

